

SUBCOMMITTEE ON SHIPBUILDING
OF THE
ECONOMIC INTELLIGENCE COMMITTEE

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chairman, Economic Intelligence Committee

SUBJECT : Subcommittee Annual Report for Fiscal Year 1975 (U)

A. (U) Activities of the Subcommittee During Fiscal Year 1975.

1. (C) Review of the Intelligence Product in the Subcommittee's Field of Competence.

(C) Neither the Shipbuilding Subcommittee nor the China Seapower Working Group have formal responsibilities for review of the intelligence product of the member agencies. Activities are instead focused on presentations and review of substantive papers at regular monthly meetings.

2. (C) Substantive Papers Reviewed.

(C) The Shipbuilding Subcommittee reviewed no substantive papers, per se, but continued to promote interagency coordination of various member agency intelligence estimates and assessments on Soviet naval and civil shipbuilding programs and other shipyard developments.

(C) Papers reviewed by the China Seapower Working Group include:

The Personnel Lift Capability of the Amphibious Force (PRC)--NAVY/NFOIO.

The PRC Fuel Oil Replenishment Capability in the Spratly Island Area of the South China Sea--NAVY/NFOIO.

Strategic Implications of the Nuclear Submarine Force--NAVY/NFOIO.

A History of the PRC Navy--NAVY/Naval Academy.

The PRC SLBM Program--NAVY/NISC.

3. (U) Projects Undertaken at the Request of the EIC or Proposed by the EIC.

(U) None.

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4. (U) Intelligence Research Techniques.

(U) No activity undertaken.

5. (C) Special Coordination Function of the Subcommittee.

(C) The Shipbuilding Subcommittee, as representative of the Chairman, EIC, coordinated the U.S. participation in the [REDACTED] Maritime Intelligence Conference, [REDACTED], during the period 9-13 June 1975. U.S. participation at this conference is co-sponsored by the EIC and DIA, with the Senior Member alternating on an annual basis.

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(C) The China Seapower Working Group, also under the auspices of the Chairman, EIC, convened the [REDACTED] Conference on China Seapower, at Washington, D.C., during the period 16-20 June 1975. North Korean maritime developments also were examined in some detail for the first time at the international level.

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(C) Additionally, the China Seapower Working Group Executive Committee meets periodically to assign class names and designators to Chinese and North Korean naval and naval associated ships.

6. (C) Evaluation of the Role of the Subcommittee.

(C) The Shipbuilding Subcommittee and the China Seapower Working Group each serve as the only established forum for regularly discussing the broad spectrum of shipbuilding intelligence related to the USSR and the PRC, respectively. Although attracting a large body of analysts, and regularly stimulating intensive discussion, the subcommittees find it difficult to directly serve the economic community interests, and to remain within the restrictive limits of the respective charters.

(C) During the past year a sincere effort was made to better serve the interests of the sponsor and the economic community. Agencies were invited to, and did have their economic elements present briefings, oriented toward problem areas to which the subcommittees might contribute effectively. Notwithstanding, the consensus of the participating bodies has clearly indicated their interests lie more in the discussion of technical parameters of naval platform developments, their association with various weapon and sensor development programs, and their impact on the Soviet Navy threat.

(C) Such a situation points out the requirement for a Naval Panel, meeting on a regular basis, and chartered in such a manner as to permit open discussion of the total spectrum of naval intelligence.

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B. (U) Future Programs of the Subcommittee.

1. (C) Recognizing the failure of the Shipbuilding Subcommittee and the China Seapower Working Group to fulfill their obligation to the EIC, the requirement for a formally sponsored Naval Panel, and the fact that the committee structure of the USIB is undergoing organizational changes, it may well be appropriate to consider changes for these subcommittees at this time.

2. (C) A proposal for a new interagency naval intelligence panel has been submitted to the various agency members of the subcommittees for their consideration. Although this may not represent the optimum solution, a meeting of the Executive Committee is scheduled for late July to discuss this proposal, and any others that may be submitted. It is planned that shortly thereafter the Shipbuilding Subcommittee will forward an agreed proposal for establishing a more encompassing Naval Panel for consideration by higher authority.

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Chairman, Subcommittee
on Shipbuilding

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